



REMARKS

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AUG 22 2001

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested. Center 2600

Claims 1-22 are presently active in this case, Claims 1 and 19 having been amended by way of the present Preliminary Amendment.

The present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable consideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Technology Center 2600

Please amend Claims 1 and 19 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A method of determining whether a storage unit included in an ink cartridge is normal, wherein the ink cartridge is configured to be detachably attached to a printer, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) reading a piece of decision information that has been registered in advance in a predetermined format, from the storage unit; and

(b) identifying whether the read-out piece of decision information satisfies the predetermined format, so as to determine whether the storage unit is normal.

19. (Once Amended) A storage unit included in an ink cartridge, wherein the ink cartridge is configured to be detachably attached to a printer, the storage unit comprising:

an address counter that outputs a count in response to a clock signal output from the printer; and

a storage element that stores plural pieces of specific information including a piece of decision information registered in a predetermined format and that is sequentially accessed based on the count output from the address counter.